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## Bernstein named to Great Places board

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By Bret Hayworth  
Journal staff writer

Gov. Tom Vilsack has named Dave Bernstein of Sioux City to the newly created Iowa Great Places board, a panel devoted to helping regions nourish arts, culture and historic character.

Bernstein is an officer of State Steel. He was a key player in the \$10 million effort to save the Orpheum Theater in downtown Sioux City and serves on the theater's board of directors.

Vilsack announced the Great Places

all know great places in Iowa. We have a responsibility to preserve them, capitalize on them, learn from them, help them become even greater. That's what the Great Places initiative will do," Vilsack said.

Anita Walker, director of the cultural affairs department, explained up to 18 state agencies would work together to offer services to kick the Great Places program into gear. The state is looking to pick three great places to serve as pilot programs to receive a combined \$8 million for improvements, although the projects would ultimately be more

costly, since local funding matches by city, county and other entities would be a requirement.

That could mean more money funneled into areas like the Loess Hills in western Iowa or the entire Mississippi River valley in eastern Iowa. Or a great place could be a distinctive inner city neighborhood or an ethnically historic cultural area. Walker said the key thing with Great Places is to not be limited to city, county or other borders.

The board of directors includes 12 Iowans. Bernstein is the only person from Northwest Iowa.



Bernstein

He spoke about the initiative at a March news conference. "Great places mean different things to different people. We

from Northwest Iowa.

"It is an honor," he said. "I am definitely looking forward to it. I think a lot of folks that have heard of this Great Places are trying to get their arms around it." With a lot of work by the board members and state agencies, Bernstein said, the concept should ad-

vance and good projects will result.

Walker will hold forums across the state over the next month to raise awareness of the project, including May 18 in Spencer, and at Council Bluffs, Pella, Cedar Falls, Muscatine, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines.